Oil is a Dangerous Pursuit (Rough)

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What would you think if 3 in every 11 offshore rigs in the Pacific have safety violations? What if I told you this was completely true? Oil has become more and more dangerous now that over 25% of oil rigs are offshore! Many fish, dolphins and other marine life are hit hard. From the giant sperm whales to the microscopic zooplankton, the sea’s delicate ecosystem is teetering. I understand the belief that many jobs and lots of money emerge from the oil industry, but how much of that money actually goes to our economy? The pipeline, as said by the president himself was a “rushed and arbitrary” pursuit. Many other energy sources, with far less corruption, are available, and can provide just as many jobs if we try.

Most of the industry is focused on crude oil, but even fracturing or “fracking” for oil shale results in major consequences. As Daniel Kinderlehrer said, “Americans have a high tolerance for slow homicide,” (Kinderlehrer 1) things like tobacco, unhealthy food and the like. There are even fish in the gulf *still* suffering from the BP spill. Many red snappers have odd black markings on them, a sign of hydrocarbon exposure, normally only documented in labs. Many dolphins have also washed ashore covered in oil, showing 2 things. First of all, the oil is still there. Secondly, the oil is still hurting the marine environment, even one year later. What would become of our fragile marine environment if we kept drilling?

In the ecosystem, oil affects marine life in many different ways. It starts at the bottom, where it deoxidizes water, killing plankton and other small fish. Next, some of the oil balls up into a “tar ball”, which washes up on the beach. Next, it floats at the surface, blocking out sunlight and covering surface dwelling animals in crude oil. Many creatures can be affected, starting with plankton. This kicks the feet out from under a delicate food chain, leaving the smallest fish to die off, then their predators, and so on. It could kill off many animals if not dealt with quickly and efficiently. This is where the problem comes in. Most clean-ups take months and millions of dollars to finish.

Overall, oil drilling requires regulation, or even needs to be removed from the US entirely. Many other sources are way safer, and are much more productive. Do we really need more deaths, mutations and oil slicks? Clean-up costs millions! As for the refined oil, well, let’s just say that “the cost of oil soared to nearly $150 a barrel”. Imagine if someone blocked out the sun with a long dark cloud, and it rained black poison, and there was nothing you could do! The fish may not be smart, but they have feelings too. Can you believe we haven’t run out of oil yet? Or gotten sick of it? It’s a dead art, and we need the future to pave the way.